

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

September 30, 2021

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

Issue CI.3

BUILDING HISTORY: H-SC DORM REFORM



Photo courtesy of hsc.edu

HISTORIC VENABLE HALL TO RECEIVE FIRST-EVER COMPREHENSIVE RENOVATION

DANIEL MARSDEN '23
GUEST WRITER

As anyone who has lived in Venable Hall will tell you, it is a confusing building. However, the eclectic layout of the building is not historic; it came about because of almost two hundred years of piecemeal renovations. This odd floor plan is complemented by sagging floors

and drafty windows. However, for the first time in its history, Venable Hall will receive a holistic renovation. The campus will be happy to see what Assistant Dean of Students Andrew Marshall described as "the historical charm of the building," as it emerges from its cocoon of linoleum to reveal the original 1820s cedar wood floors. Construction

on Venable Hall first began 197 years ago in 1824. Since its completion, Venable has served a variety of roles; it has been home to classrooms, dormitories, and a chapel. However, each time the building was updated, the building was worked on in sections. There were even plans in the 1940s to tear the building down. Venable's most recent renovation took place in

1988. Since then, few things have changed. Kevin Miller, director of Facilities, explained the process. Miller took over Buildings and Grounds, now rebranded as Facilities, at the end of 2021 spring semester. Upon his arrival, there was a plan to renovate Venable, which merely addressed the windows, flooring issues, and HVAC systems of the building. Miller stated that he was "unimpressed with the building." He prompted a renewed study on the building.

The college has sought help from Messick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker Architects, LLP. MCWB is a crack team of historic architects who have worked on Monticello, Montpelier, and Mount Vernon. Additionally, the firm has worked on historic structures at both UVA and W&M. They have a specialty in early American styles, which Venable Hall comfortably falls into. The college contracted MCWB to carry out an historic preservation study. This consisted of a detailed look at the history of the building. Additionally, they carried out a conditional assessment.

The conditional assessment focused primarily on accessibility of the building. This includes egress and ingress. The Parents and Friends lounge is entirely isolated from the rest of the building despite comprising the middle section. The hallways and staircases seem to have no

rhyme or reason to their layout. For instance, to walk from a room on the second floor to the third of the S passage you cannot simply walk up a flight of stairs to the next floor. You have to walk down two flights of stairs, through a door, down a hallway, a second through a door, up three flights of stairs, though a third door, and down another hallway. This complicated layout is an obstacle to ingress and egress. Dean Marshall stated that "it isn't necessarily the safest for students incase they need to get out in a hurry." The other primary accessibility goal of the conditional assessment was to bring Venable up to code re-

non. Additionally, the firm has worked on historic structures at both UVA and W&M. They have a specialty in early American styles, which Venable Hall comfortably falls into. The college contracted MCWB to carry out an historic preservation study. This consisted of a detailed look at the history of the building. Additionally, they carried out a conditional assessment.

The conditional assessment focused primarily on accessibility of the building. This includes egress and ingress. The Parents and Friends lounge is entirely isolated from the rest of the building despite comprising the middle section. The hallways and staircases seem to have no rhyme or reason to their layout. For instance, to walk from a room on the second floor to the third of the S passage you cannot simply walk up a flight of stairs to the next floor. You have to walk down two flights of stairs, through a door, down a hallway, a second through a door, up three flights of stairs, though a third door, and down another hallway. This complicated layout is an obstacle to ingress and egress. Dean Marshall stated that "it isn't necessarily the safest for students incase they need to get out in a hurry." The other primary accessibility goal of the conditional assessment was to bring Venable up to code re-

Continue reading on page 2

Series of Sexual Assaults on Campus

Four Reports in Four Weeks

DANIEL NIVENS '24
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hampden-Sydney has experienced a string of sexual assault allegations since the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester. *The Tiger* has been made aware of four separate allegations, two of which were reported to the Title IX Office. As a result of the two reports, Chief of Police Mark Fowler issued two "Timely Warning Notices," which are required by law when crimes occur on campus. An additional email was sent out by members of the Student Government on September 17. The first of these notices came on Monday, August 30, about an incident that occurred on the night of Friday, August 27. The second notice came on September 13, reporting an incident that occurred on September 3. This report con-

tained much more detail, indicating a suspected drugging of a drink at a fraternity house on campus. All four allegations that *The Tiger* is aware of occurred on the Circle and involved alcohol. All those involved who were spoken to requested that the details of the situation and their names remain anonymous. Of the two situations reported to the Title IX Office, Melissa Wood, Hampden-Sydney's Title IX Coordinator, assured that they are being thoroughly investigated. "The goal of the Title IX Office is to coordinate such investigations in a fair and impartial manner and to ensure that the rights of all parties are protected. We aim to complete investigations within 60 days. While our ability to adhere to this time frame is dependent upon several factors, we strive to complete all of our investigations expeditiously," Wood noted.

Wood also offered some general advice for students on campus: "I would encourage students to always be aware of their surroundings, to look out for their student colleagues, and to report concerns immediately. Also, individuals must respect and understand personal boundaries. In addition, people must not make any assumptions regarding consent and someone's availability. Do not interpret silence and/or passivity as an indication of consent. If there is any ambiguity, then there is no consent. Furthermore, individuals must never take advantage of someone's inebriated or drugged state. If you or someone around you is in immediate danger, contact H-SC Campus Police or dial 911." As was noted in the Student Government email from September 17, however, there is some good news. Students ap-

parently stepped up as active bystanders during the two reported incidents. This sort of behavior is far more in keeping with the normal behavior of a Hampden-Sydney man, and as Woods noted, that is "encouraging."

Going forward, it is important to bear in mind the words of our Student Government officials: "Let this message serve as a reminder that we must all continue holding ourselves and each other accountable in order to maintain a community in which everyone is valued and respected—where everyone feels as though they are members of the Hampden-Sydney family."

Barnes and Noble Buys Out Campus Store

ALEX RUBINO '23
STAFF WRITER

The rumors are true! Barnes and Noble will be taking over the Hampden-Sydney campus bookstore come early November. The campus bookstore is located at the back of Graham Hall and is home to very popular Hampden-Sydney hats, accessories, etc. that are seen around campus. A bookstore employee gave me some insights on the future of the bookstore. Barnes and Noble will be "taking over the store on November 1st." She added that "they will be closing the store on November 1st "for necessary renovations to the bookstore."

The renovation period should take "about a week" and the reopen date is still tentative at this time. This will obviously not be a full-blown Barnes and Noble bookstore, but specifically, she said, a "Barnes and Noble college bookstore" like the store on Longwood's campus. Ken Copeland, Vice President for Business Affairs and Finance, declined to comment at this time. There is presently limited information about this transaction, but more information will be available come next edition. How will the bookstore structure change? How will the online presence change? Those questions will be answered next edition.

Page 2: Porterfield, Chi Alpha

Page 4: Musgraves, Spoilers, Weed

Page 6: Christian's Corner

Page 3: Simms, Student Government, NCAA Rules

Page 5: Texas, Banned Books, Letter to the Editor

PAGE TWO

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

Founded 31 January 1920
by J. B. Wall '19

Editor-in-Chief
Michael Van Citters '22

Associate Editor
Daniel Nivens '24

News Editor
Benjamin Hager '23

Opinion Editor
Patrick Strite '24

Life Editor
Michael Harris '22

Copy Editor
David Crego '23

Staff Photographer
Connor Hobarn '25

Cruciverbalist
John Torian '24

Staff Writers
Connor Costa '24
Grayson Harmon '22
Jeffery Hunsaker '23
Richard Jones '25
Drake Kalinowski '23
Connor Kitson '25
Alex Rubino '23
Elian Toapanta-Sanchez '24

Guest Writers
Daniel Marsden '23
Adam Brazil '24
Lucio Chavez '22

Faculty Advisor
Dr. James Frusetta

Request a subscription!

By Mail:

Tiger Subscriptions
Brown Student Center,
Box 1017
Hampden-Sydney, VA
23943

Or Online:

<http://www.hsc.edu/News/Communications/Request-Forms/Tiger-Subscriptions.html>

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger is a student newspaper serving the community of Hampden-Sydney and operating independently of the College. The Tiger is printed biweekly by The Farmville Herald.

The views expressed in the Hampden-Sydney Tiger are those of their authors and do not reflect the official stance of The Tiger.

We accept submissions in the form of letters or guest columns. Brevity is encouraged. Interested writers, cartoonists, and photographers can send us an e-mail at

D	E	T	P		H	I	P	E	D		M	A	H	S
E	K	A	S		T	O	I	E	S		S	B	S	T
R	O	T	E	R	U	B	R	C	A		I	U	I	E
A	V	O		E	M	O	T		I	E	I	C	U	N
D	E	T	E	V	I	R		E	R	E	L			
			E	O	Z		N	I	P		I	T	N	A
S	E	O	R		A	T	A	D		S	T	N	E	D
E	T	I	G	A		E	Y	E	L		I	N	A	O
X	A	T	E	R	E	R	O	C		I	A	R	I	S
E	T	O	D	T	L	B		I	N	O				
			T	O	T	S		S	T	I	P	E	H	T
S	S	E	S	S	A		A	Y	O	H		T	S	E
K	C	I	R		S	P	R	A	H	S	D	R	A	C
S	I	R	I		A	I	M	I	R	P		T	O	M
A	T	E	F		B	I	L	A	D		E	A	T	E

Porterfield Talks H-SC, Catalyzes Nostalgic Reaction

RICHARD JONES '25
STAFF WRITER

Ask anyone you see walking on our beautiful campus, and they'll tell you that they love it. If you're talking to a professor, alumnus, or current student, however, you can bet that there is a good deal more meaning to that statement. For Dr. William W. Porterfield, Venable Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Hampden-Sydney is home. He loves Hampden-Sydney so much that he decided to write an entire book dedicated to the College's history. His book, *Things that Might Have Happened at Hampden-Sydney*, details the College's struggles and successes throughout the years, telling both sobering and humorous stories of the people within Hampden-Sydney. Recently, Porterfield elected to give a presentation of the College's his-

tory that included many of the events detailed in his work. This presentation began on the top floor of the Bortz Library at around seven on September 14, but fortunately for one freshman (me), leniency was given to those who arrived a little late. The presentation consisted of a beginning-to-end look at the history of the various buildings on campus. Porterfield brought together the colorful cast of characters that inhabited each of these buildings throughout the years in such a way that demonstrated each building's significance to the members of the College. He told the story of Hampden-Sydney's Alamo, the dining hall that bore a striking resemblance to the site of the historic last stand of the free Texans. He told the story of a certain hall on campus that was deemed by students to be "too ugly" to

remain and their subsequent success in burning down that building. He told the story of the legendary "Cushing 500," the makeshift racetrack that used to be located right in front of Cushing Hall, and which hosted only one successful race before being shut down due to safety concerns. All these stories give listeners only a taste of the vibrant life that has always thrived here at Hampden-Sydney College. Porterfield finished his presentation with pictures of the new Pauley Science Center in the center of campus, leaving the audience looking forward to the new memories that will be made in the building. Porterfield makes clear in his presentation and his book that Hampden-Sydney has been and still remains a special place filled with good people, a place that he is proud to call home.

Venable Renovation, cont'd



Photo courtesy of Daniel Marsden '23

garding ADA accessibility. The Americans with Disabilities Acts (1989) sets out a myriad of requirements a building must meet to be considered ac-

lighted the problems with the building, and those involved are currently formulating the best course of action. These plans will be presented to

up the price of building materials. Miller is confident that we will be able to adjust plans as prices continue to fluctuate. Marshall remarked

and Friends to a more historically authentic and usable venue. However, all current concepts are still pending the approval of the board. Despite



Photo courtesy of Daniel Marsden '23

cessible. Venable fails in many regards. As Miller explained, "if you're a handicapped or disabled person it's not really a conducive environment... so that's not cool." The studies have high-

the Board of Trustees in November for approval. However, some problems will persist regardless of the strategy the board approves; first and foremost is cost. COVID-19 has driven

that one primary goal was to "restore the historical charm of the building." This involves revealing the original fireplaces, exposing the original flooring, and returning the Parents

this, it is clear that Venable is finally receiving treatment it sorely deserves as a cornerstone of Hampden-Sydney's past, present, and future.

Chi Alpha Christens New Chalgrove Music Venue

BENJAMIN HAGER '23
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, September 17th, Longwood and Hampden-Sydney's Chi Alpha chapter held a worship night at the newly built multipurpose area next to Lake Chalgrove. This was the first time Chi Alpha has had a worship night at Hampden-Sydney in a number of years, and everyone was excited to have Chi Alpha back at Hampden-Sydney. Ricky Epperly, a Chi Alpha leader, says that while Chi Alpha gathers weekly at bible studies at Hampden-Sydney and Longwood, being able to worship out in the open offers a unique opportunity for everyone involved: "For the first time in many years, Chi Alpha, a campus

ministry group at Longwood and Hampden-Sydney, set out to have a worship night on campus. Our vision was to publicly honor the name of Jesus with worship and prayer. In 1787, a great revival happened across the nation that actually started at Hampden-Sydney College. It didn't start by having hundreds of students in a service, but just a few as they sought the Lord in prayer in the midst of a moral climate that was rapidly deteriorating. In the same way today, we desire the Spirit of God to move and turn heads toward him." Akeem, a Chi Alpha Worship Leader, expressed similar excitement: "I believe that one of the greatest privileges is to worship Jesus. It was a

great opportunity to worship on campus with students and their families. I believe revival can happen again! Dan Ludovico '25, who participates in Chi Alpha events at Hampden-Sydney and Longwood, was excited to see a larger worship night on our own campus: "It was really cool to see all the students from both Longwood and Hampden-Sydney come together for a night of worship." For students interested in getting involved, Chi Alpha has worship nights at Longwood on Tuesdays at 7:30 in Soza Ballroom, and Jordan Meredith '23 co-leads a small-group on Mondays at 7:00 in the Hampden-Sydney mailroom. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

NEWS

Putin Things in Context

Simms Lectures on Russian History and Its Modern Legacy

Drake Kalinowski '23
Staff Writer

The Alexander Hamilton Society welcomed the esteemed Dr. John Simms, Elliott Emeritus Professor of History, to discuss the recent actions of President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Simms, ever the campus legend and firecracker of political opinions, utilized the lens of history to not only show why Putin believed his actions to be justified but even went so far as to justify Putin's actions himself. The lecture began with a brief introduction from Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) L. Rucker Snead, another campus legend and figure within the GVFA and National Security campus community. Simms began about as far back as one reasonably can in

discussing Russian history: the founding of Kiev in modern-day Ukraine in the year A.D. 862. He recounted the story of how Christianity was brought to Russia and how Russia came to be split into the three states now known as the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Ukraine. Additionally, Simms gave an account of the personage of Putin including his history with the Soviet intelligence agency and the KGB as well as Simms's own personal beliefs regarding the state of Russia. It is clear to Simms, and perhaps as clear to members of the various governments watching the situation in Eastern Europe, that Putin intends to unite the three states into one whole Russia. Putin almost single handedly pushed Russia from a fragile federation

of feuding states into the superpower and regional giant that it is now. The force of will carried by President Putin was made clear to the whole world when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. It was with stone quarried from this annexed area that Vladimir built a statue of the ruler who brought Christianity to Russia, a statement not only to the immense Orthodox faith professed by Putin but also to his commitment to the idea of reunifying old Soviet territory under the banner of the Russian Federation. Simms described Putin as a "proud, vain, Russian Nationalist," and that much is obvious to any man who examines his demeanor and his actions. Putin was proud of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and that pride shifted over to

the Russian Federation. It is because of the fall of the USSR that Putin views the West as an enemy, and this view in turn pushed the West against Putin. His beliefs in Russian Exceptionalism, his strong Orthodox faith, and his belief in autocracy make him a strong leader for a country that would otherwise lose itself trying to identify what is important to it. Through Simms's analysis of Putin's actions and the background of Russian history that was given at the lecture, it is clear that President Vladimir Putin is a dangerous man who will present challenges for the state of national security in the coming years, and those challenges are ones that the men of Hampden-Sydney are obligated to meet and overcome.

Student Government Elects New Representatives

Benjamin Hager '23
News Editor

September at Hampden Sydney brings with it a number of things from football games and colder weather to orange and red leaves on the trees and pumpkin spice lattes at the Tiger Inn. One such September event, though not as evocative of Fall as Tiger Football or pumpkin spice, is Freshman Senate Elections. A number of elections were held in recent weeks for various positions within student government; freshmen William Gardner, Drew Blankenship, and Sam Detrick were elected to the Senate; sophomore Will Krueger was elected to the College Activities Council (CAC), and junior Ian Novak was elected to the Honor Court. Sam Detrick '25 said this about running for Student Senate: "I ran for Student Senate because I want to be a positive voice for my fellow classmates. Being a Student Senator at Hampden-Sydney has been a goal of mine since I initially learned about the position, and I am glad that I get to be a student who fills a seat. While I serve my term as Freshman Senator, I hope to improve Hampden-Sydney in any way I am able to." Drew Blankenship '25 also expressed a desire to be a strong voice for the Freshman class: "Student government has always been an interest of mine. Ever since sophomore year of high school, I have held a leadership position within the student body. Taking part in student government is a great way to make a lasting impact on the school by improving the wellbeing of all students. As a senator for the freshman class, I plan on being a resource for both my peers and for the administration. I encourage any student to contact me if they are having any problems on campus, so that I can work to solve those problems along with my fellow senators."

William Gardner '25 echoed Detrick's and Blankenship's words: "Hampden-Sydney has a long tradition of forming boys into the best versions of themselves. Because of this, the college is known around the world for the exceptional men that graduate. I believe that this character development comes from the freedom that the students have in forming this school into whatever they want it to be. But, for someone to engage in that formation, he needs a voice. I was passionate about representing my brothers' voices. That is why I chose to run." The Freshman Class of Senators looks strong, but their's wasn't the only election that took place last week. Newly elected Junior Honor Court representative Ian Novak has lots of leadership experience on campus and hopes to utilize that experience while serving the student body on the Honor Court. "Being elected for the Student Honor Court is, unironically, an honor. Every year I try to find more ways to give back to this campus and surrounding area, and out of all of these ways I have to say the Honor Court is the most impactful to me. For years the Honor Court has not only stood for the virtues that are held so sacred on these grounds, but it has also been a shining beacon atop The Hill, serving as a model organization and a defining symbol for all who answer the call of Brotherhood. That being said, I am beyond excited to begin serving my community and upholding the values that we all love and strive for." Every new year brings a new class of Student Government Representatives, and with that new leadership comes new opportunities for the student body. As the weather gets colder and Fall rolls around, let us remember that we have obligations not only to ourselves but also to our community; serving others can take many forms, and one way to serve is to serve in Student Government.

NCAA Rule Changes to Allow Student Sponsorships: Athletes Seek Opportunity

Connor Kitson '25
Staff Writer

Over the summer, the NCAA announced that college athletes could profit off their name, image, and likeness (NIL). Many student-athletes around the country have taken advantage of this unique opportunity, including student-athletes from Hampden-Sydney College. Athletes from all division levels can benefit from the new rule change the NCAA put into place. "I think NIL will definitely advantage some students. There are some D1 students making millions

and even some D3 making thousands. In my opinion, anyone should be able to make money off of their name, image, or likeness. It's a positive for student-athletes for sure," said Head Athletic Director and Golf Coach Chad Eisele. Will Pickren, a sophomore defenseman for the football team, has already taken advantage of the rule changes with a sponsorship from Bojangles. He explained how a sponsorship in the local community has impacted him. "The people who work at Bojangles are awesome. They were welcoming, and it is pretty sweet to

have a good support system somewhere other than HSC," said Pickren. Pickren shares how significant an impact the sponsorship has been able to provide him. "This sponsorship has benefitted me because whenever I'm hungry, I know I can run and get something good to eat at Bojangles," said Pickren. The rule change regarding name, image, and likeness is usually discussed regarding division 1 athletes, but Pickren shares how his sponsorship has personally benefitted him. "I think it is a great move by the NCAA because, at the D3 level, we

don't have athletic scholarships, so every dollar counts when saving up to college, and I think most students relate to that," said Pickren. "I always found it silly that Student-Athletes weren't allowed to make money in the first place because it is their name and image, so I'm glad the NCAA made a move to allow NIL deals to happen." Only the future will tell whether or not the NCAA made the right decision regarding name, image, and likeliness. However, at Hampden-Sydney College, the majority seems happy about the benefits the new rule provides.



LIFE

Five Stars for *Star-Crossed*: A Look at Kacey Musgraves’s New Album

ADAM BRAZIL ‘24
GUEST WRITER

Kacey Musgraves won Album of the Year at the 2019 Grammys with her clever, upbeat, and introspective, pop-country album “Golden Hour.” Full of catchy hooks and melodies, “Golden Hour” feels like a perfect breeze on a 72 degree day. It feels like southern sweetness. It feels like a soft smile. This album simply gets better each time you listen. Musgraves newest project, “star-crossed,” is vastly different from the Grammy-winning “Golden Hour.” For one, “star-crossed” comes soon after her divorce from ex-husband, Ruston Kelly. Meanwhile, “Golden Hour,” was written while she was falling in love with him. Songs like “Butterflies,” “Golden Hour,” “Oh, What a World,” and “Rainbow” were all written as she fell in love. Secondly, “star-crossed” sounds more dig-

itized and auto-tuned than typical Kacey. There are far too many electronic synths and beats for this album to be considered country. On the contrary, “Golden Hour” feels almost exclusively acoustic, natural, and certainly southern. Although “star-crossed” is different from anything that Musgraves has done before, she pulls it off and makes it her own. Now that we have established how “Golden Hour” and “star-crossed” are different, let’s discuss “star-crossed” as an independent project. My first listen, on September 10th, was a boring one. Most of the songs ran together and I was upset that Golden Hour Kacey wasn’t more present throughout. However, four songs quickly stood out to me: “cherry blossom,” “simple times,” “camera roll,” and “hookup scene.” I recommend these songs to anyone who wants to give this album a try but is unfamiliar with Ms. Mus-

graves. The more I listened to “star-crossed,” the more I understood it and the more I came to like it. Now, about 3 weeks after its release, I love it. She spends the first 5 songs of the album avoiding the reality of the divorce and living in a sort of denial. The opening song, “star-crossed,” is the perfect intro as she sets the scene for the album. On the next track, “good wife,” Kacey meshes an upbeat melody with regretful lyrics about being a better wife. “Cherry blossom,” the album’s third song, argues that timing was the reason for the divorce. It’s a catchy and gleeful tune that I really enjoy. With “simple times,” the 4th song, Musgraves puts the worries and stresses of adulthood on pause and takes herself elsewhere: her youth. She begs to go back to being an innocent, carefree teenager who could go to the mall and hang out with her friends every day. This one is a

bop. It makes me, a 20 year old boy, want to return to the simple times of just two months ago. “If this was a movie...,” the fifth track on the album, finds Kacey wanting her ex-husband back. It’s a romantic song that shows Kacey hoping that the divorce didn’t really happen. Kacey completely flips the script on the track “justified,” where she starts to understand that her variety of emotions towards her ex-husband are “more than just a little justified.” Also on this song, she begins to blame Kelly for the divorce instead of trying to lay blame elsewhere. On the slow and beautiful “angel,” Musgraves admits that the divorce is probably her fault too, while still laying part of the blame on her ex. This is one of my favorite songs on the album. Her voice sounds so smooth and soothing, especially when she sings, “I’d pull you out of the darkness, keep you out of the rain.” However, “angel” is

strikingly similar to “good wife” and “if this was a movie..” as Kacey is still stuck up on the what *ifs* of her marriage. The album’s 8th song, “breadwinner,” is one that seems to be a fan favorite, particularly among women. It’s something of a female empowerment song, which is very Kacey. She made a name for herself in the country music industry because of her wit and fearlessness when standing up to traditional southern values and gender norms. I am glad to see her do this again on “star-crossed.” What’s funny about “breadwinner” is that it’s basically the pretty white girl’s version of Kanye West’s “Gold Digger.” Things get deep on the album’s ninth track, “camera roll.” This song is one that I recommend to anyone who has been through any kind of breakup. As one of the album’s slower songs, “camera roll” will shoot daggers at your aching heart. It is all about going

through your camera roll shortly after getting out of a relationship and seeing all the memories you have with them. In a sense, Kacey faces the decision to either delete or keep the photos and memories she has with him. It’s painful, but Kacey ultimately decides to remain grateful and keep the photos and the memories as she sings, “Anyway thanks, for all the nights and the days, and everything you gave, I’ll never erase it.” The tenth track, “easier said,” is another upbeat song that got lost in the mix on my first listen. For 3 minutes and 7 seconds, Kacey ponders why it is easier said than done to love someone, which cuts really deep when you think about it. Loving someone should be the easiest thing in the world. The 11th song, “hookup scene,” is one that I know many college students will relate to. In college, the hookup scene is glorified and romantic-

Continue reading on page 6

Spoiler Alerts Never Spoil: A Bit Sketchy...

DANIEL NIVENS ‘24
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

To those of you who know me, you probably know that I am quite terrible at watching movies. Chances are if you ever ask me “Have you seen this movie?”, the answer is no. So, in an effort to make myself watch some movies, I am writing this column. In every issue of The Tiger, I will be writing a non-spoiler review of an old movie that I had never seen. These movies could be a decade old; they could be five decades old. The moral of the story is that spoiler alerts never spoil. In the second edition of the column, I went far weirder. This week, I watched Monty Python’s *The Meaning of Life*, which came out in 1983. It’s the last of the Monty Python comedy movies made during their peak, following *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*

and *Monty Python’s Life of Brian*. The film stays true to the sketch format that made Monty Python famous, featuring several vignettes that deal with different stages of life and one short film at the beginning of the movie. The entire movie is utterly bizarre and may not be funny to most people. I’d suggest watching *Holy Grail* before ever attempting this movie. But, on second thought, you might want to skip *Meaning of Life* even if you like Monty Python. At the very least, you can skip the second half. The short film that goes along with *Meaning of Life* is quite good, as is the film up until “The Middle of the Film” vignette. From there on, it gets weirder and grosser and is quite hard to watch. I laughed quite a bit during the first half; I had to stop myself from gagging in the second half.

The jokes fall flat, and the conclusion keeps with Monty Python’s characteristic inability to conclude a film. If you’re insistent on watching *Meaning of Life* and its second half, I highly recommend entirely skipping “The Autumn Years.” Pick up from “Death” to “The End of the Movie.” I’ve been told by our esteemed Editor-In-Chief that I need to give the movie a second watch. According to him, this film has the best and deepest Monty Python humor. Frankly, I didn’t get that on the first watch-through. I much prefer *Holy Grail* and *Life of Brian*. I may give *Meaning of Life* a second chance later on (in which case I’ll re-review it in this column), but I couldn’t bring myself to do that myself for quite a while. Monty Python’s *The Meaning of Life* gets a solid 34%.

Weed Like Change: A Look at the College’s Marijuana Policy

LUCIO CHAVEZ ‘22
GUEST WRITER

Following community confusion pertaining to the legalization of marijuana in the Commonwealth of Virginia (effective July 01, 2021), the Student Court Chairman, Coleman Meadows ‘22, informed the student body, via email, of the College’s cannabis policy. The email states that because of the federal classification as a drug free school under the Drug Free School Zones and Communities Act of 1989, Hampden-Sydney is required to follow federal laws concerning marijuana. Although Meadows’s email clarifies the College’s reasoning for maintaining its policy after the substance became legal in the Commonwealth, it presents an issue on whether the federal government should continue to classify marijuana

as an illicit drug, or if it should follow Virginia, along with seventeen other states, in legalizing the substance. Although the United States has had a long conflicting relationship with the usage of marijuana, the contemporary issue with the legality of marijuana stems from the passage of the Controlled Substance Act of 1970. This act instituted a set of five categories, or schedules, which classified drugs and other substances based on its potential for abuse and medicinal value. Under this system, Schedule One drugs are classified as having the highest potential for abuse and no medicinal value, while Schedule Five drugs are categorized as having little or no potential for abuse and high medicinal value. Marijuana has, since the passage of the act, remained as a Schedule One drug, despite the substance hav-

ing been proven to be wrongfully categorized. The Schaffer Commission, established by the Nixon Administration to identify the effects of marijuana pertaining to its potential for abuse and medicinal value, concluded, in its 1972 report, marijuana to not be detrimental to mental health. Although the Commission’s report recommended that marijuana be rescheduled, the recommendation was ignored by the federal government because of political drive and ambition. An article published by Harper’s Magazine in 2016 states that John Ehrlichman, former assistant to President Nixon, claimed the motivation for classifying marijuana, and for the entire War on Drugs, was to “get the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt

Continue reading on page 6

OPINION

Fear, Ignorance, Texas

ELIAN
TOAPANTA SANCHEZ '23
STAFF WRITER

Fear and ignorance: powerful allies capable of dimming the brightest stars and fracturing the greatest unions have gripped America, and nowhere are the consequences seen more clearly than in Texas, the Lone Star State. Recently,

stubborn defiance of facts and logic has turned the state into a breeding ground for viral transmission whilst archaic mindsets have resurged, emboldened by ignorance and fueled by misinformation and political agitators. As it stands, Texas is a prime example of fear and ignorance run unchecked.

To begin to understand Texas's plight, first we must discuss the mindset behind the madness. I would have never expected the simple act of donning a face mask to incite such hysteria and paranoia, but hey, I underestimated the influence low-quality jpeg conspiracies had over peer-reviewed scholarly

sources. Though, in a way, this warped logic does make some sort of sense: everyone likes to feel smarter than the person next to them.

There's a certain satisfaction associated with knowing something someone else doesn't, knowing something that people don't want you to know. Thus, when

people "discover" that the pandemic is secretly a communist ploy to take away their rights and that the vaccine is step one of subjugating their God-given rights, they get to feel superior cause they just blew the lid off the entire operation. It doesn't matter what "evidence" says because they found the truth and now they must shepherd the misguided sheeple towards enlightenment.

One convinces two, two convinces three, and suddenly, there's an epidemic of misinformed ignorance. However, it is once this epidemic begins to taint political affairs where the ignorance truly makes it mark. Amidst a surging pandemic, Governor Greg Abbott, issued an executive order restricting localities from enact-

ing mask mandates intended to limit the spread of the virus.

Now, according to Texas's own Department of State Health Services, Texas leads the country in daily average cases by a whopping 11,375. The outcome of such a reckless act had to have been clear, but stubborn ignorance (and a bit of blind patriotism) blinds people from acknowledging facts and logic. After all, when Abbott said, "Texans, not government, should decide their best health practices...", that changed the intonation of the entire executive order.

Now, it's about Texans and their rights, and getting in between that would be political suicide. So, forget about common courtesy to

Continue reading on page 6

The Irony of Banned Books Week

DANIEL NIVENS '24
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Almost a year ago today, I sat down to write an op-ed about this same topic to which I turn now. At the risk of being accused of beating a dead horse, I want to touch on Banned Books Week (BBW) a second time. For those of you who are unfamiliar, Banned Books Week is a production of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (ALAOIF) celebrated annually during the last week of September. Our very own library has celebrated BBW both years I have been here.

To give credit where credit is due, this year's presentation for BBW is exponentially better. In my last article, I criticized BBW for not celebrating any books that had actually been banned. This year, the Bortz staff did an excellent

job displaying and giving context to books that have actually been banned. I highly encourage everyone to check out and celebrate this first table. The problem arises, yet again, in the challenges to books.

Last year, the ALAOIF tracked 377 challenges to books across the country

books in a country of more than 320 million people is a drop in the bucket. None of the 10 books that were most challenged are at ANY risk of being removed from the public discourse. Bortz should stop playing the ALAOIF's game with these books: celebrate actually banned

As the name of this office implies, they should care a great deal about intellectual freedom. But the lack of mention of these books is simply a case of the ALAOIF liking some books and disliking others.

But enough with the smoke and mirrors: time to be explicit. The books I am referencing are,



Photo courtesy of Daniel Nivens '24

(For context, a challenge is a request to have a book removed from a library that is self-reported to the ALA). This year, that number is only 156 challenges. I will simply repeat my assertion from my article last year: 156 challenges to

books, hence the name of the week.

But there is yet a greater irony to this year's BBW. You see, some books have ACTUALLY been banned or come very close this year. Yet, they get no mention by the ALAOIF. None whatsoever.

of course, *And To Think I Saw It On Mulberry Street*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, *McEligot's Pool*, *On Beyond Zebra!*, *Scrambled Eggs Super!*, and *The Cat's Quizzer* by Dr. Seuss; and *When Harry Become Sally* by Dr. Ryan T. Anderson. Dr. Seuss'

books were removed from publishing and their sale was banned on eBay for allegedly racist imagery (I'm not attempting to comment on whether or not the imagery is actually racist; frankly, I am unfamiliar and it isn't relevant). Dr. Anderson's book was banned by Amazon, which controls over 90% of the bookselling market in the United States.

Again, and I cannot stress this enough, you can think Dr. Seuss' imagery was racist and Dr. Anderson's argument was transphobic. That is not the point. This

is a question of intellectual freedom (if the ALA is to be believed); this is not a matter of like or dislike, or even of wrong and right. Some of the books celebrated this year were banned for legitimate reasons. *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov describes and often celebrates in cringeworthy, explicit detail the grooming and rape of a 12-year-old girl. The implicit argument of the ALA is that the content is periphery; banning books is a slippery slope, they argue, and if these books can be banned, any

Continue reading on page 6

Letter to the Editor: A Cautionary Tale

DR. JAMES C. KIDD
GUEST COLUMNIST

Cancel culture has come to Hampden-Sydney, institutionalized in the Office of Equity and Inclusion, (hereinafter OEI). I know because I'm a recent victim. In a private e-mail to an old friend, I described the lecture "My Life in Two Genders" as a "must-miss" event. I do not condemn transgender people, but I have serious reservations about how the trans movement has been politicized. I lived through the militant intolerance of "you're with me or against me" in the 60s in Chicago. I deplored it then, and I deplore it now. How ironic that the trans community's

demands for tolerance are stated in intolerant and unequivocal rhetoric.

What I didn't realize was that I sent my e-mail, in error, to the OEI and I don't know where else. That became clear when, out of the blue, I received an e-mail from the OEI accusing me of being both a "homophobe" and a "hypocrite," one that "students see through easily." Who are these people? They don't even know me. My thoughtful and honest response to these preposterous charges, in which I detailed my background, beliefs and values, apparently fell on deaf ears. The OEI did not acknowledge receiving it, nor did they thank me for the sincerity of the effort.

I assumed, naively, that this was the end of an unpleasant episode of character defamation. But later when I was fired as glee club accompanist, after a very happy thirty-five year association, I realized that THIS was the unfortunate end of the episode. President Stimpert informed me that the charge against me was "lack of contrition." (I'm not making this up, following in Galileo's footsteps.) Dean of Inclusive Excellence Hollemon and Dean McDermott developed this charge. When two fine arts colleagues also recommended non-renewal of my contract, the decision was unanimous and final. I had been identi-

fied as some kind of dangerous apostate, and punished.

More disturbing than the character assassination and cancelled contract was the suppression of free speech and thought involved. That is insidious and dangerous, having no place on a college campus. But after reading the mission statement of the OEI online, I was not surprised. It is not a positive mission statement. It is an exhaustive list of topics (excluding the weather and sports scores) that can only be discussed in positive terms. This official "mission statement" is soviet in its orthodoxy, a prohibition, an assertion of political correctness, and suppression of free thought and

speech.

In my errant private e-mail, I obviously touched on sacred cows that are deemed above discussion or scrutiny, and I suffered consequences. That is not what a college is about, and certainly not Hampden-Sydney which I revere. Anyone wishing to judge for themselves should read the three written documents (e-mails) in the case, requesting access through the FOIA of the OEI, the dean's office, or the president's office.

In my dotage, I chose not to use the Grievance Committee or a justifiable lawsuit, requesting simply a retraction and apology from the OEI for its attack on my character and reputation. I am compelled to make

public the important issues involved. Because I have it on the highest authority that there will be no apology, I'm not holding my breath.

As a footnote, because of an eye condition, I would not be able to serve the glee club in good conscience in any case. The punishment of a cancelled contract is thus moot. Although I will greatly miss the glee club association, I send all good wishes to the guys. My only hope is that those involved in this episode feel shame for what they have done to me, and shame for how they have represented the college.

Sincerely,
James C. Kidd,
Barger Professor
Emeritus of Music

THE BACK PAGE

Christian’s Corner: The Importance of Attending Church

DAVID CREGO ‘23
COPY EDITOR

Brothers and sisters of Hampden-Sydney College, I want to start off by asking a simple question, Why do you go to Church? Reader, please take your time to consider this question, because it is of upmost importance. By going to Church, we sig-

nify that Christianity is something worth celebrating. We are “the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden” Matthew 5:14. Because of the power of our example, we must ensure that we have the right reasons for our actions, so we do not lead anyone astray through our bad example. It is important to go to Church

for two important reasons: 1) involvement in a Christian community and 2) closeness with God. Church is where the Christian community congregates, and one cannot divorce himself from the community and still be called a Christian, because anyone—no matter how wise or how strong—will fail without support from others

and, more importantly, from God. If we splinter away from the Church, our own failures will become unnoticeable to us, for we are not inclined to think ill of ourselves. Just as it is bold for a surgeon to operate on himself, it is equally bold for a person to judge himself critically. We all strive to a standard that none of us will ever reach:

utter perfection. We will fail, but a Christian community will not accept the sinning of its members:

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church; and if he refuses to listen even to the Church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15–18

Having a supportive community makes us more virtuous, because we surround ourselves with those committed to improving themselves. Consider our own college. We all sign and abide by the Honor Code, but our duty goes beyond our own personal behavior. We are concerned with the actions of our fellow classmates. We do not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing here committed by ourselves or by our fellow brothers.

A much more important reason to attend Church is the presence of God. Great sermons are inspiring and invigorating, and Parish potlucks are delicious, but these are not why we should go to Church. I can satisfy my intellectual curiosity with a lecture here at Hampden-Sydney; I can satisfy my appetite, barely, here at Moans. However, the type of nourishment that we receive at Church has no substitute. Nothing else can com-

pare to the intimacy with God present in Church. The Bible is esteemed, rightfully so, because it is the Word of God, but the presence of God in Church is “the Word [becoming] flesh and [dwelling] among us” (John 1:14). If Christianity calls us towards a relationship with God, there is no better way to develop that relationship than in his presence.

How can I strengthen my relationship with a friend if we never meet in person and talk face-to-face? Last year was tough because we saw every aspect of our lives change, and for the first time in a while, many of us were no longer able to go to Church. Yes, there were streams of the church services and even YouTube videos of the celebration for some communities. However, these services, while understandable, served as no replacement for the real deal of going to Church in person.

Let us break any nasty habits that we might have developed over the lockdowns. We shall choose the presence of God over any sort of convenience, whether that be an extra hour of sleep or watching your church service on your laptop. Alas, that is but my humble interpretation.

Each person is called into a relationship with Christ, and each person is unique. If you have any questions or quarrels with whatever I have said, please, do not hesitate to email me, David Crego, at Cregod23@hsc.edu. God Bless!

Banned Books, cont’d

book can be banned. They are 100% right.

The problem comes from this: the ALAOIF is willing to celebrate some books that they like (see *George, The Hate U Give, To Kill A Mockingbird*) and ignore others that they don’t (see Dr. Seuss and Dr. Anderson). Ideas cannot and should not be banned; it would

be the death of intellectual freedom. The way to combat bad ideas is to confront them in the light, not to shove them into the dark. The ALAOIF did make a bit of noise about Dr. Seuss, but apparently not enough to count those books as banned. The ALAOIF made absolutely no noise about Dr. Anderson’s book,

even as organizations like the National Coalition Against Censorship openly condemned Amazon’s decision.

You could make the argument that the ALAOIF did not make any statement about *When Harry Became Sally* because it concerned the distribution of a novel rather than anything to do with library collections. Fair enough. The problem is that libraries across the country might not have the ability to purchase the book to add it to a collection in the first place. If the ALAOIF is seriously concerned about censorship, then it has a place to talk about this issue.

To conclude and make myself clear, my criticism is not primarily of the staff at Bortz. They do an excellent job. My criticism is of the American Library Association and their Office for Intellectual Freedom. They make a mockery of themselves by arguing that 156 challenges pose a serious threat to intellectual freedom. They make that mockery even more ironic by ignoring legitimate threats to freedom of expression. I want Banned Books Week to be great; there just needs to be some work done to get there.

Musgraves, cont’d

cized by many. But Kacey challenges that narrative; she begs people who are in romantic relationships to stay in them and enjoy them because the hookup scene is not as great as it may seem. It leaves people broken and more lonely than before.

Songs 12, 13, and 14 are “keep lookin’ up,” “what doesn’t kill me,” and “there is a light,” respectively. These are three wonderful tunes that all serve the same purpose: they let the listener know that Kacey has started recovering from the divorce. Kacey references her newlywed, happy, go-lucky album, “Golden Hour” in “what doesn’t kill me” when she sings,

“I have been to hell and back, golden hour faded black.” She lets the listener know that despite the heartbreak, she is stronger now than before. The album’s concluding song, “gracias a la vida,” which means “thanks to life,” is sung beautifully and fluently in Spanish, which really shows off Musgraves’ talent. It puts the ups and downs of life into perspective. Kacey Musgraves is thankful for the life she has, even if things don’t always go her way.

If you haven’t listened to “Golden Hour,” do that first. If you like it, give “star-crossed” a try. It’s worth it.

Texas, cont’d

one’s fellow citizen, clearly what matters more is one’s inconvenience over another’s health.

However, it seems that Abbott’s comments didn’t keep women’s autonomy in mind. Recently, Texas’ new abortion law both bans abortions after six weeks and enables private citizens to sue anyone who provides or aids in abortions. 48 years of *Roe v. Wade* have essentially been

undone in Texas, a complete assault on women’s rights and their autonomy. What’s happening in Texas is one of the most severe cases of societal regression that is permeating throughout the country. However, what’s most concerning is the speed at which such ideas and policies spread. If left unchecked, the ramifications could be devastating for American society.



Weed, cont’d

those communities.” It is evident that the classification of marijuana as a Schedule One drug came about through malintent. The notion that marijuana is as harmful of a substance as heroin has been disproven time and time again. The substance has even been found to be less harmful than alcohol. In 1999, the Institute of Medicine found that marijuana holds medicinal purpose and has low potential for abuse. Much of the evidence proves that there is no reason to continue to clas-

sify marijuana as a Schedule One drug. The policy has caused more harm than good to the public. It has disproportionately impacted communities of color and unjustly placed many in prison. While some restrictions on the consumption of marijuana ought to remain in place, there is no reason for individuals to be cruelly punished for consuming a substance that poses no direct harm to society.

Join the team.

Write for *The Tiger*.

Contact newspaper@hsc.edu for more information.